

the National Science Foundation to quantify the relationship between the physical characteristics of elementary and secondary schools and student academic achievement in those schools.

This bill is intended as a companion to the High Performance Schools Act of 2001, which takes the concept of "whole buildings" and puts it into the context of our schools, establishing a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce "high performance" school buildings.

CONTEXT

In addition to the economic and environmental benefits of smart building choices, evidence is growing that high performance buildings are beneficial for student performance. A growing number of studies link student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions. Although these studies have begun to reveal important information correlating a school building's environment with student performance, no large-scale, comprehensive study has been conducted to date.

HOW IT WOULD WORK

The High Performance Schools Research Act is intended to help give school districts the information they need to make better decisions. The bill would establish a National Science Foundation research program to thoroughly investigate the linkages between specific characteristics of the physical environment of a school and student learning.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Women's Caucus who have been organizing weekly special orders around topics of great concern to women during the time when we celebrate Women's History Month.

Today's topic is violence against women. Violence against women is a profound and extremely pervasive problem, striking across borders, across economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and across all the age groups. It is an epidemic that affects not only women, but their children and families as well.

We, in Congress, should be proud that we were able to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act last session. Now, we must live up to our promise and appropriate full funding to the programs included in this bill.

Furthermore, pervasive discrimination continues to deny women full political and economic equality, and is often at the root of violations of their basic human rights. This is reflected in the various manifestations of violence women endure: domestic violence; female genital mutilation; sex trafficking; rape during times of armed conflict; sexual assault; "honor" killings; sex-selection or gender preference abortions; and other manifestations, including neglect in areas of education and nutrition women and girls endure, both here and abroad.

The statistics are appalling. Globally, 1 out of every 3 women has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime. In the United States, 1 out of every 6 women has been beaten or sexually abused. There are somewhere between 1 to 2 million women and girls

who are illegally trafficked around the world, with at least 50,000 coming into the United States. Some 130 million girls and young women have undergone female genital mutilation and it is estimated that in the United States there are at least 10,000 girls at risk of this practice.

Women's lives are endangered by violence which is directed at them simply because they are women. We must stop what I believe has become too accepted and tolerated in our society. Violence against women is not acceptable and we must get that message out to both the perpetrators of the violence and the women who endure it.

We recently witnessed a landmark moment in international justice, when three Bosnian Serbs were convicted for the rape, torture, and sexual enslavement of Muslim women during the Bosnian war. For the first time in the international justice system, sex crimes against women are being specifically identified and punished. In the past, UN war crimes tribunals ignored mass rape and sexual enslavement and considered these crimes to be a natural occurrence in war. Crimes against women such as forced prostitution and rapes that took place during WWI were never even prosecuted in the international tribunals that followed the war. Today, perhaps most significantly, the judges ruled that mass rape is a crime against humanity, the most serious category of international crimes after genocide.

However, while there is still even one woman out there who endures violence, our work will not be complete. We need more money for services such as transitional housing and job placement and training to support women while they seek to escape abusive situations. We also need to provide trainings to educate boys and girls against violence so the problem stops.

We must change our attitudes to come up with remedies to cure this epidemic, not just treat its symptoms. We as women must be empowered to challenge the culture of violence. Our work can not be complete until the women of the world live free from an ever present fear of violence.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the founders of San Antonio, Texas, the city I represent here in the United States Congress. Friday, March 9, 2001 marked the 270th anniversary of the founding of La Villa de San Fernando, the settlement which would later become known as the City of San Antonio.

On March 9, 1731, the Spanish Government founded the first permanent civic settlement in what is now the State of Texas. On this day, under the stewardship of Spanish King, Philip V, sixteen Canary Island families arrived in the territory then known as Tejas to establish La Villa de San Fernando. It would become the first civic government in Texas.

In honor of the sacrifices and contributions of the founding families of the City of San Antonio, and on behalf of the Canary Islands De-

scendants Association of San Antonio, Texas, I hereby recognize the role of the Canary Islanders in the founding of the Villa De San Fernando in 1731—later named San Antonio, Texas.

The founding of the city of San Antonio was achieved formally under the law of the Council of the Indies which was the Spanish law governing Nueva Espana in 1731;

With the arrival of the Canary Islanders, having the required number of ten families, the number required by the Laws of the Indies, to establish a town, the settlers were thus entitled to organize their own civil government, to receive lands for the construction of their homes and the sowing and raising of crops, to have a church and town hall, and to build a town with a public square and regularly planned streets;

After reaching their destination, following untold hardships, the exhausted travelers were received by Captain Juan Antonio de Almazan of the Presidio of Bejar; on the following day they were lodged in the best houses of the soldiers;

Following the detailed instructions of Viceroy Juan de Acuna, Marquez de Casafuerte the survey and distribution of the lands for the establishment of a new settlement was made;

On March 12, 1731 Captain Almazan took the heads of families to the Arroyo (now called San Pedro Creek) and divided the lands among them for a later time when they might divide the lands with more care. He urged them to plant crops before June 30;

By July 2, 1731 the settlers gave their efforts to the establishment of the proposed town, the church, and the public square;

On the following day July 3, 1731 lots were distributed to the families to build their homes adjoining the church and Casa Real. Then a large cross was formed at the main entrance of the Church as the center. By completing each of the four squares of the four sides of the cross a perfect larger square two thousand one hundred eighty-six varas on each side was delineated. The corners were identified by four long rocks as markers. A deep furrow was plowed from corner to corner to indicate the boundary in accordance with the instructions of the Viceroy;

On July 20, 1731 the first civil government was established when Captain Almazan appointed the members of the city council and other officers.

The Canary Islanders who were sent by King Philip V to establish the Villa de San Fernando did accomplish and played an important role in the beginning of the development of the magnificent City of San Antonio, in the region first known as Tejas, which developed into the great State of Texas.

TUNISIA 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARK KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a great ally of the United States, Tunisia, as she celebrates 45 years of independence. In 1797, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the North African country of Tunisia. Over 150